

MINK STOLE AND MYSTERY ENVELOPE

Mrs. Hucks Gets Neighborly Grilling

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By RICE ODELL

Conspiracy trial defendant Sally T. Hucks, who lives across the street from Justice Department Atty. Abraham M. Poretz in Alexandria, was put under intensive cross-examination by her neighbor for more than two hours yesterday.

Mr. Poretz, who is prosecuting the District Court case, heard the 44-year-old Mrs. Hucks emphatically deny the previous day that she received a mink stole from Teamsters Union chief James R. Hoffa, or that she had anything to do with destroying records which had been subpoenaed by the Senate labor rackets committee.

HOW

Mr. Poretz asked her how it happened, as she claimed, that Benjamin Dranow loaned her a mink stole. Mrs. Hucks said she had mentioned to Mr. Dranow, a friend of Hoffa, that she would have to buy something to wear to a CIA dance she was going to. Her husband worked for CIA.

"He said he had some coats and stoles left from a business he was in, and asked me would I want to borrow one," Mrs. Hucks testified. "I said I wouldn't want to put him out or be obligated and he said there'd be no obligation." She said a mink stole was loaned.

She denied telling any of the girls working under her in the telephone room of the Woodner Hotel where the stole came from. A Government witness had testified she told her it was a gift from Hoffa, and modeled it with some excitement.

"After the stole had served its purpose, did you return it to Mr. Dranow?" Mr. Poretz

asked. "I couldn't find him," the defendant said.

CHARGE

Mrs. Hucks is charged with lying to the Senate committee when she denied having a stole. Mr. Poretz asked her if, after leaving the committee's witness room, she had not called her husband and said something like, "Get rid of it."

"That is not true," Mrs. Hucks said. She said the stole stored at a dress shop in Falls Church for Mr. Dranow to pick up. She admitted she didn't ask that it be returned between March and December, 1959.

Mr. Poretz asked her if anyone was at National Airport

before she and her husband left for a vacation trip to Hawaii at the end of 1958. She said Moss Herman, a co-defendant, met her.

"I didn't know he was coming," she said. She said he

only wished her luck and gave her some rolls of film.

Mr. Poretz asked her if someone had not called her to tell her that a package containing \$3000, requested by Mr. Dranow, would be given to her for the trip. After insistent questioning, she said "money was not mentioned at all . . . I received a call about an envelope, but I didn't get the envelope." She said she

learned the purpose of the envelope only later thru gossip at the Woodner.